

CRYSTAL



MIAMI (July 7, 2026)

Crystal Retains the No. 1 Ranking Among Midsize-Ship Ocean Cruise Lines in *Travel + Leisure's* 2026 World's Best Awards

Cruise line continues award-winning momentum as it prepares
for the launch of *Crystal Grace* in 2028

Crystal, the leader in exceptional cruise experiences, is proud to announce it has once again been named the No. 1 Midsize-Ship Ocean Cruise Line in the *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards 2026, readers' survey, marking the second consecutive year the brand has earned the prestigious distinction. Crystal has held the top spot in this highly coveted award for nearly 30 years since the award's inception in 1995. The complete list of 2026 World's Best Awards will be featured in the August 2026 issue of *Travel + Leisure*, and online at <https://www.travelandleisure.com>.

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The recognition underscores Crystal's continued renaissance following its relaunch in 2023 under A&K Travel Group and reinforces its position as the benchmark for luxury ocean travel. The award is based on readers' evaluations of cabins and facilities, dining, service, itineraries and destinations, shore experiences and overall value.

"To be recognized by *Travel + Leisure* readers as the world's best for a second consecutive year is an extraordinary honor and a testament to the passion, dedication and commitment of our exceptional crew and shoreside teams. Everything we do begins with our guests, and this award reflects the trust they place in Crystal to deliver truly unforgettable experiences. As we continue to invest in the future of the brand, including the arrival of *Crystal Grace* in 2028, we remain focused on offering the most exceptional travel at sea while staying true to the warmth, service and sophistication that define us."

CRISTINA LEVIS, CEO OF AKTG

Since its relaunch, Crystal has reestablished itself as one of the most celebrated names in luxury cruising. *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* underwent extensive refurbishments, introducing larger, redesigned suites, enhanced wellness offerings at Aurōra Spa, world-class entertainment, refined gaming experiences at Casino de Monte-Carlo through its partnership with the Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer, and exceptional culinary experiences, including Umi Uma by Chef Nobu Matsuhisa, the only Nobu restaurant at sea, Beefbar, and Osteria d'Ovidio.

The award comes during a period of significant growth for the brand. In 2028, Crystal will usher in a new chapter with the debut of *Crystal Grace*, the first new ocean ship in more than two decades. *Crystal Grace* will blend the elegance and intimacy that guests love with innovative new accommodations, expanded dining concepts and thoughtfully designed public spaces, setting a new standard for luxury cruising.

"This recognition belongs to every member of the Crystal family," added Bernie Leypold, SVP Hotel Operations for Crystal. "What sets us apart is the genuine connection between our crew and our guests. That sense of belonging, combined with an unwavering commitment to excellence, creates an experience unlike any other. Receiving this award for a second year in a row confirms that our vision is resonating with travelers around the world."

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For more information, or to book any of Crystal's award-winning exceptional voyages, contact your travel advisor, visit crystalcruises.com or call 1-800-446-6620.

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About Crystal

For more than three decades, Crystal has been synonymous with exceptional, award-winning voyages. In 2022, AKTG (Abercrombie & Kent Travel Group) acquired the Crystal brand and its two vessels, Crystal Serenity and Crystal Symphony, ushering in a new era of being 'Exceptional at Sea' following a \$170 million refurbishment of the two ships. The globally renowned cruise line offers discerning travelers industry-leading, authentic, and enriching experiences both onshore and at sea. Crystal's pioneering partnership with Abercrombie & Kent provides guests with unparalleled access to the most sought-after experiences and destinations around the world. The reimagined ships boast larger, updated suites with artisanal finishes, and almost one member of crew per guest.

Crystal is home to the first-ever Casino de Monte-Carlo at sea as part of an exclusive partnership with Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer (SBM), and world-class dining includes Umi Uma®, the only dining experience at sea by chef Nobu (Nobuyuki Matsuhisa), and the only Beefbar on the ocean, a collaboration with visionary restaurateur Riccardo Giraudi, and a specially curated Osteria d'Ovidio menu by three-time Michelin-starred Italian chef Massimiliano and celebrated restaurateur Raffaele Alajmo. The ships also feature cutting-edge wellness at the Aurōra Spa, and spectacular entertainment including Broadway-standard shows. With a legacy of unrivaled service and commitment to sophistication and elegance at every touchpoint, once onboard guests feel as if they are perfectly at home.

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